

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension)

of the Educator Certificate of)

Robert Shipman, Sr.)

Certificate 146289)

ORDER OF SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on July 13, 2005. On May 27, 2005, the Office of Teacher Certification served Robert Shipman, Sr., a notice of his right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension of his South Carolina educator certificate by certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee. Mr. Shipman received the notice, as evidenced by the signed postal receipt. Mr. Shipman did not request a hearing within the time frame specified in the notice letter. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Mr. Shipman's certificate for one year.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Shipman holds a valid certificate and has over eighteen years of teaching experience. Mr. Shipman was employed during the 2004-05 school year with Chesterfield County School District Six (District) and was assigned as a physical education teacher and golf coach at McBee High School. Mr. Shipman also served as a bus driver for the District's activity buses. On March 2, 2005, Mr. Shipman was randomly selected, along with other bus drivers, for drug and alcohol testing under the provisions of District policy. Mr. Shipman tested positively for the drug cannabinoid and resigned on March 9, 2005, after being confronted with the results of the drug test.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The State Board may suspend the certificate of any person for unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. §§ 59-25-150 and 160 (2004). The State Board finds that there is sufficient evidence supporting its conclusion that just cause exists to suspend Mr. Shipman's certificate for one year, from July 13, 2005 until July 12, 2006. At the end of the suspension period, Mr. Shipman may request reinstatement of his teaching certificate by written request to the Office of Teacher Certification at the South Carolina Department of Education. If Mr. Shipman requests reinstatement, he must pass a character and fitness review by the State Board.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Joe Isaac for Paul M. Forrester

Paul M. Forrester, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

July 13, 2005